

# MISSING PAGE

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Ambassy Bonn

interest in a narrow "Berlin" solution of these prominent young deputies, both close to Chancellor, was striking and indicates wider consideration of such ideas in CDU/CSU. ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

#### 4. Bundestag Justice Debate

Bundestag held debate January 22 dealing with certain controversial judgements passed by West German courts on anti-Semitism and with other grievances concerning administration of justice in Federal Republic. Parties were unanimous in condemning anti-Semitism and in defending German court system in general, but there were sharp divergencies between Government and opposition in such cases as Kilb corruption case and Blankenhorn-Strack libel case. (UNCLASSIFIED)

#### 5. Government Action on Coal

Economics Minister Erhard asked Ambassador to call January 22 in order to inform him of action Federal Republic was about to take on coal. After brief review of political nature of problem and referring to forthcoming demonstration of miners (see below), he said Federal Republic would impose tariff effective January 30. Earlier in week, during visit of Embassy officials to Ruhr, Germans had argued existence of political danger in situation where coal stocks are 5 million tons greater than maximum in depression and had warned that if growing unrest and subversive elements led to radicalization of Works Councils in March elections, whole political stability of Ruhr would be affected and Government would have increased difficulties in all aspects of its policies, including foreign and defense. Embassy concluded that although Germans fully understood US position and intended to do everything possible to avoid any impact on US-German basic friendship, they were fully determined to act and would be backed by overwhelming public opinion. (See Weekly Economic Review) ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

#### 6. Coal Miners to Demonstrate

The Mineworkers Union has called a protest meeting on the coal crisis in Bochum on January 25. Around 50,000 miners are expected to attend. Union president Heinrich Gutermuth and executive board member Karl von Berk will reiterate union demands for a settlement of the coal crisis. The union has submitted a memorandum on the coal problem to the Federal Government, the North Rhine-Westphalia Government, and to all deputies in the Bundestag and NRW Landtag.

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Comment: The activity of the union reflects its concern over the increased worries of mineworkers that their jobs may be endangered if coal stocks continue to mount. Gutermuth feels that organized protest meetings are required in order to direct expressions of dissatisfaction into controllable channels. (UNCLASSIFIED)

## MILITARY

### ARMY

#### 1. Reserve Organization for Territorial Defense:

According to the Defense Ministry, the German Armed Forces (primarily Army) will be able to give a maximum of 35,000 reservists their initial 4-weeks' reserve training during 1959. The potential reservists are World War II ex-servicemen who will form the reserve for the Territorial Defense Command (National Forces as opposed to NATO Forces) in technical support units and guard units. Since too few ex-servicemen have volunteered for reserve duty, all World War II ex-servicemen born in 1922 will be registered and screened for reserve duty. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The German military establishment requires a large and active reserve organization. Until now there have been insufficient facilities and training personnel to establish such a reserve. A reserve for Army units (i.e., tactical units) is gradually being formed from discharged personnel from the new German Army, who are required to spend an average total of 9 months in short periods of reserve training in the years of obligated reserve service following discharge. (UNCLASSIFIED)

NAVY - Negative

AIR - Negative

## PSYCHOLOGICAL

#### 1. Mikoyan's Visit

Mikoyan's activities, statements, and conferences, and the import and effect of his trip received prominent coverage throughout the week and prompted a great deal of press speculation and editorial comment. Reports that Mikoyan was having considerable success with US business circles, and Deputy State Secretary Dittmann's hurried trip to Washington to confer with Dulles, caused considerable anxiety

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